Targets Fixed for Cotton Export

†5630. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D.MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any targets were fixed for the export of cotton from country during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) if so, what were the. said targets;

(c) whether cotton was exported as per targets;

(d) if not, the actual quantum of export made during each of the said years; and

(e) the reasons for which exports could not be made as per the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Though no target is fixed for export of cotton, Government releases quota for export. The quota released and actual exports during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as follows:—

YEAR (October-September)	QUOTA (in lakh bales of 170 kg.	ACTUAL EXPORT lakh bales of 170 kg.
1997-88	8.2	3.4937
1998-99	5.00	1.01253
1999-2000 (upto 28.4.2000)	5.00	0.337

(e) The quantum of export, *inter alia,* depends upon the price and quality parameters. In recent years, cotton prices in international market have come down considerably and are at par or lower than the prices in domestic market.

France Blocking Indian Textiles Exports

5631. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France has been preventing the EU from letting Indian textile exporters use the exceptional flexibilities mechanism to boost shipment to its fifteen member nations; tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so,.whatare the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with Government of France; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Government have requested European Commission (EC) to grant exceptional flexibilities as per Clause 6 of the India-EU MoU, which was signed in December, 1994. As it was learnt that some EU members were opposing grant of exceptional flexibilities, the matter was taken with all EU members including France threugh our Missions in EU Member Countries. EU has now decided to release exceptional flexibilities partially amounting to 3500 tonnes subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

Export of Cotton

†5632. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH: will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton is exported from the country;

(b) if so, the average quantum of cotton exported annually during the last five years;

(c) what are the names of those countries which are in competition with India in the export cotton in the international market; and

(d) what is the average quantum'of cotton exported annually by each of those countries separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The quantum of cotton exported during the last five years are as under:—

Year (October-September)	Quantity in (Thousand Metric Tons)
1995-96	142.8
1996-97	285.94
1997-98	59.39
1998-99	17.21
1999-2000 (Upto 20.4.2000)	5.73

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.